

Lesson 13. Home Security

Lesson Purpose

To provide an overview of strategies for making a home safer, using strategies that include locks, alarms and lighting.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe basic strategies for making a home safer.
- Complete a home security checklist.
- Identify key resources for improving home security.

Materials

Presentation: *"Home Security"*

Handout(s): *"How Can I Make My Home Safer?"*

"Home Security Checklist"

"Burglary Prevention" (optional)

Supplement: *"Lock Crime Out of Your Home,"* from the National Crime Prevention Council. Download at www.ncpc.org).

Display newspaper and magazine articles about crimes involving home burglaries.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slides
Introduction		
5 min.	If <i>you</i> can break-in, so can a burglar! A small investment of time and money can make your home more secure and can reduce your chance of becoming a victim of burglary, assault or vandalism.	1 - 2
	Briefly describe a local example involving home security.	
	Today, we'll look at some basic strategies for making a home safer, and we'll complete a home security checklist that you can use to identify areas that might need improvement.	2
	Distribute Handouts How: <i>"Can I Make My Home Safer?"</i> and Home Security Checklist	

Time	Main Points	Slides
Presentation		
7 min.	Check the locks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure every external door has a deadbolt lock. Secure sliding glass doors - locks, a broomstick or wooden dowel in addition to a pin in a hole drilled in the frame. Secure double-hung windows by using key locks or by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole. Don't hide keys in mailboxes, planters or under doormats. In a new house or apartment, have the locks changed. 	3
5 min.	Check the doors <p>Locks aren't effective if they're on flimsy doors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior doors should be metal or solid 1¾" hardwood. Doors should fit tightly in their frames, with the hinge pins on the inside. Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer. Door chains are not security devices—they break easily and won't keep an intruder out. 	4
4 min.	Check the outside <p>To discourage burglars from selecting your home --</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim shrubbery that hides doors or windows; cut tree limbs that could help a thief climb into windows. Turn on outside lights after dark; consider timers and motion detectors. Store/lock up ladders and tools when you're not using them. 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your yard well maintained. Clearly display your house number. Keep up the appearance of the neighborhood. Update your home inventory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List items like VCRs, stereos, cameras and computers with serial numbers. Take photos or make videos of items. Think about engraving your valuables. When you go away – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put lights and a radio on timers. Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions. Stop the mail and newspaper deliveries, or ask a neighbor to take them in. 	6
3 min.	What about alarms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have valuables in your home, live in an isolated area or a neighborhood vulnerable to break-ins, consider an alarm system. Before you invest in alarms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check what level of security fits your needs. Look for an established company and check its references 	7

Time	Main Points	Slides
	<p>before hiring it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn how to use your system properly. ▪ If you continually trigger false alarms, your neighbors may come to ignore the noise. You could even be fined by local law enforcement agencies. 	

Time	Main Points	Slides
5 min.	<p>Burglars can take more than your property! Burglars generally don't want to encounter their victims. If they're surprised by someone coming home, or if they pick an occupied home, someone could get hurt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you feel something is wrong, don't go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house or a public phone. ▪ If you hear a noise, quietly call the police and wait calmly until they arrive. If you can leave safely, do so. Otherwise, lock yourself in a room, or, if the intruder enters the room you are in, pretend to be asleep. 	8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Think carefully before buying a firearm for protection. Guns can be stolen and sold to anyone, or they can be captured and used against you or the police. ▪ If you already own a gun, keep it locked up, with the ammunition secured separately, and learn how to use it safely. 	9
2 min.	<p>Look beyond locks and alarms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Join, or help start, a Neighborhood Watch group. ▪ Look around for things that could contribute to crime—poor street lighting, abandoned cars, vacant lots, littered playgrounds with broken equipment and homes that elderly people have trouble maintaining. Help organize a neighborhood cleanup/fix-up day. ▪ Keep written records of all valuables. ▪ Take pictures or a video of your home/possessions. ▪ Keep purchase information, including serial numbers if available. ▪ If your neighbors are ever victims, help them. Offer sympathy and support; help with meals, repairs or baby-sitting. 	10
2 min.	<p>Summarizing (briefly highlight each area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locks and doors. ▪ Outdoor environment. ▪ Consider an alarm. ▪ Burglars don't want to encounter their victims. ▪ Ways to look beyond locks and alarms. 	11

Time	Main Points	Slides
Practice/feedback		
12 min.	Ask participants to complete the Home Security Checklist. Allow participants 8 to 10 minutes to complete it. The instructor should circulate among participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 3 or 4 volunteer participants to discuss “next steps” to improve security, based on checklist. The instructor should reinforce key learning points.	12

Time	Main Points	Slides
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>“We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we’re doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we’d like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.”</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	13

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Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I know more basic strategies for making windows and doors more secure.	1	2	3	4
b) I know more strategies for securing a home when traveling or otherwise away.	1	2	3	4
c) I know to more strategies to secure outdoor valuables and personal property.	1	2	3	4
d) I am likely to report a home burglary or other theft of property.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

